

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 05238 071321Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 5238

FROM MOYNIHAN

EO: 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN EGEN ECOSOC

SUBJ: 59TH ECOSOC: PLO OBSERVER STATUS

REF: STATE 157681

1. MAY I ASK THAT INSTRUCTIONS RELATING TO OUR POSITION ON THE PARTICIPATION OF THE PALESTINIAN LIBERATION ORGANIZATION IN UNITED NATIONS ACTIVITIES BE GIVEN US IN PLAIN LANGUAGE AND IN COMPLETE SENTENCES. I HAVE SPENT MUCH OF THE DAY PUZZLING OVER THE FIRST PARAGRAPH OF STATE 157681. ONLY JUST NOW, LATE ON THE FOURTH OF JULY, WITH FESTIVITIES FORESAKEN AND DINNER DELAYED, HAVE I REALIZED THAT SOME ECONOMICAL SOUL SAVED TEN CENTS AT WESTERN UNION RATES BY LEAVING OUT THE VERB IN A DEPENDENT CLAUSE OF THE SECOND SENTENCE.

2. IN PARAGRAPH TWO, WE ARE INSTRUCTED THAT WE MAY (BEGIN QUOTE:) JOIN IN ANY CONSENSUS INVITING PLO TO MAKE STATEMENT, PROVIDING PLO APPEARS TO HAVE LEGITIMATE INTEREST IN MATTER UNDER DISCUSSION. (END QUOTE.) SURELY A REPRESENTATIVE OF GROUP OF PERSONS WHO PROPOSE TO SET THEMSELVES UP AS A NATION STATE CAN CLAIM A LEGITIMATE INTEREST IN ALMOST ANY SUBJECT LIKELY TO BE ON AN ECOSOC AGENDA. SHOULDN'T THE INSTRUCTION TAKE NOTE OF THIS LIKELIHOOD?

3. IN PARAGRAPH TWO WE ARE FURTHER INSTRUCTED TO OPPOSE (BEGIN QUOTE:) ATTEMPTS TO GIVE PLO RIGHT TO MAKE REPEATED STATEMENTS
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PAGE 02 GENEVA 05238 071321Z

OR RIGHT OF REPLY (END QUOTE). TAKEN LITERALLY THIS MEANS THAT

WE ARE TO OBJECT TO ANY ASSERTION THAT THE PLO CAN TALK REPEATEDLY OR CAN REPLY TO ANY STATEMENT, BUT ARE NOT TO OBJECT TO THE PLO ACTUALLY DOING SO. HAVE I CORRECTLY UNDERSTOOD THIS PART OF OUR INSTRUCTIONS?

4. AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, ISRAEL IS AN OBSERVER AT THIS SESSION OF ECOSOC, AS IT WAS AT THE LAST SUMMER SESSION. ISRAEL INSISTS THAT IT HAS THE RIGHT TO INTERVENE REPEATEDLY AND, IN PARTICULAR, TO EXERCISE MULTIPLE RIGHTS OF REPLY. PERHAPS THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE EFFECT ON ISRAEL OF THE PRECEDENT WHICH MIGHT BE ESTABLISHED IN THE EVENT THAT WE ARE ABLE TO LIMIT PLO PARTICIPATION AS CONTEMPLATED BY OUR INSTRUCTIONS, WHATEVER EXACTLY OUR INSTRUCTIONS ARE.

5. ON THIS LATTER POINT, WE NOTE THAT THE ISRAELI OBSERVER AT THIS ECOSOC MEETING SPOKE FRIDAY AFTERNOON. HE CALLED ATTENTION TO THE TERRORIST BOMBING THAT DAY IN JERUSALEM, FOR WHICH THE PLO HAD CLAIMED CREDIT. HE THOUGHT THE SEATING OF A PLO OBSERVER HAD BEEN AN ERROR. BUT, HE SAID, HIS DELEGATION WOULD NOT ATTEMPT TO CHALLENGE PLO REQUESTS TO SPEAK DURING THE SESSION. MAY I ASK, ARE WE INSTRUCTED TO CHALLENGE THE PLO IN SITUATIONS WHERE THE ISRAELIS DO NOT? PLEASE BE CLEAR THAT I AM NOT OFFERING ADVICE. I AM ASKING FOR INSTRUCTIONS. IS IT TO BE ASSUMED, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT OUR POSITION IN THIS MATTER WILL BE STRONGER THAN THAT OF THE ISRAELIS? WEAKER? THE SAME? THE ISSUE WILL BE WITH US A LONG TIME, AND ONE FEELS THE NEED FOR GENERAL AS WELL AS SPECIFIC GUIDANCE.DALE

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